

present year -

I remain very truly yours

John Ball



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London SW

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My dear Mr Watson

The news which reached us by telegraph filled us with grief & consternation which has been shared by very many of the friends in England who had learned to appreciate him - I need not say that to botanists throughout the world his loss will be felt as a calamity, and to his friends it is a personal misfortune - Seeing in spite of advanced years such a store of energy and vigour I had looked forward to many years of continued activity on the part of that dear man -

I am much indebted to you for your kind letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst

received - We do not venture to write to Mrs Gray but when you have an opportunity I beg you to convey to her the affectionate sympathy of myself & my wife - we have thought much & often of her during the last ten days.

I have to thank you for taking care of me with regard to the collections of Messrs Howell & Pringle - As I must set bounds to my expenditure in that line I do not propose to subscribe at present for Dr Palmer's plants.

In the letter which Mr Gray handed to you there is, if I remember right, a reference to a small matter which I may as well explain. Feeling a desire to reciprocate the general kindness which I have received

from American botanists & a wish to promote the spread of our science in your country - I commenced some two years ago to set aside duplicates and soon put together four large bundles - over 1000 species - <sup>chiefly</sup> of European & Mediterranean plants including a full proportion of varieties & several Rarissime - I might easily put aside as many more, but the real difficulty is to find time to write the labels - those left with my duplicates being ~~written~~ usually intelligible only to myself - I have done a part of this work at odd times - but having no assistance it gets on slowly. The arrangement was that anything wanted for the Cambridge Herbarium should be retained there & the remainder given to any American institution or private botanist where they w'd be likely to be of use -

I propose in any event to carry out that arrangement & hope to despatch the case some time during the